A

BRIEF ESSAY

ON THE

Advantages and Diſadvantages,

Which Reſpectively Attend

France and *Great Britain*,

With *Regard* to TRADE.

WITH SOME

PROPOSALS

For REMOVING

THE

Principal Diſadvantages

OF

GREAT BRITAIN.

In a *New* and *Conciſe* METHOD.

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To the Right Honourable

THE

Earl of HALIFAX,

First Lord Commiſſioner

For *Trade* and *Plantations.*

My LORD,

THE Author of the enſuing Treatiſe humbly begs Leave to addreſs it to your Lordſhip, in the Character you ſo worthily ſuſtain, as Preſiding over the Commercial Intereſts of theſe Kingdoms. And as He has an Heart truly warmed with the Love of his Country, He cannot but congratulate the Publick, That a Perſon of your Lordſhip's Rank, Abilities, Integrity, and Zeal for it's Welfare is placed in

ſo important a Station. What Great Things may We not preſage in the Courſe of your Adminiſtration, when We reflect upon what hath been already done at the Beginning of it! That noble Plan of Peopling *Nova Scotia* with our diſbanded Sea and Land Forces (at once conſulting *their* Intereſt, and *our own*, both in a Civil, and a Military View) is an Earneſt of our future Hopes. And We need not regret the Delivering up *Cape Breton*, a Place indeed of Importance to *France*, but which would have been a great Expence, and a mere Incumbrance to Us, when our Northern Colonies are ſecured by ſo excellent a Barrier as *Nova Scotia*: Eſpecially as the latter hath the Advantages of a much better Climate, a more fruitful Soil, more Commodious Harbours, and the Beſt Fiſhery in the World.

PERMIT me, My Lord, to add, That I would not have preſumed to have addreſſed this little Treatiſe to your

your Lordſhip, had I not been perſwaded from your known Zeal, and Love to your Country, That you would regard every honeſt Attempt to promote it's Welfare, with a favourable Eye, for the Sake of the Intention; ----- At the ſame Time, That your Judgment and Penetration would diſcover the Miſtakes and Imperfections of the Author. With theſe Sentiments, My Lord, I humbly beg Leave to ſubſcribe myſelf,

Your Lordſhip's moſt Obedient,

AND

Moſt Humble Servant,

The AUTHOR.

ERRATA.

ERRATA.

PAGE 1. line 2. instead of, *Which France and Great Britain respectively labour under*, read, *Which respectively attend France and Great Britain.* P. 8. l. 1. for *are* read *is*. P. 61. at the Top, for *Luxxury*, read *Luxury*.——The lesser Errors and Omissions the candid Reader is desir'd to correct in perusing.



A Brief ESSAY *on the* ADVANTAGES *and* DISADVANTAGES, *which* France *and* Great Britain *reſpectively labour under in regard to* TRADE: *With ſome* PROPOSALS *for Removing the Principal* DISADVANTAGES *of* Great Britain.

The Principal DISADVANTAGES *of* FRANCE.

I. THE Firſt Diſadvantage to a Free Trade is the *Government*, which is *arbitrary* and *deſpotick*; and therefore ſuch as a Merchant would not chuſe to be under, if He knows the Sweets of Liberty in another Country, and has no Attachments of Family or Intereſt to keep him ſtill in *France*. It muſt be acknowledged, his *Property*, generally ſpeaking,

is ſecure enough, but his *Perſon* is not ſo. To explain this: There are fixed and ſtated Laws to decide all Caſes of Property, and Criminal Cauſes, as it is here in *England:* So that He may know the Rules he is to be govern'd by in thoſe reſpects, and can have an open Trial for his Life or Fortune. But there are no Laws to aſcertain the Nature of *Political Offences*, or to circumſcribe the Power of the Judge; ſo that he is entirely at the Mercy of the *Lieu-tenant de Police*, and his Deputies, who can *impriſon* him without aſſigning any Reaſon, or bringing the Evidences to confront him. And therefore his only Security is, To be for ever laviſh in the Praiſes of the King and the Miniſtry, and to ſay nothing, which may give any handle to the Spies, who ſwarm all over the Kingdom, to inform againſt him.

II. The Second Diſadvantage to the Freedom of Trade, is the *Romiſh Religion*, which, beſides its many Abſurdities, is *arbitrary* in its own Nature, and *cruel* againſt all Oppoſers. And a Proteſtant Merchant, if at the ſame time a *Conſcientious* and *Religious* Man, will find himſelf very often reduced to great Difficulties, to avoid acting the *Hypocrite* by Compliances againſt his Conſcience, or to avoid the Danger which attends the *exerciſing* his Religion, and *educating* his Children in the Proteſtant Way. This, I ſay, will often hap-

happen, even at preſent, tho' the Bigotry of the Court of *France* is not near ſo great, as it was in former Times.

III. ANOTHER great Burden, and conſequently a Diſadvantage to the Trade of *France*, is, *The great Number of Religious of both Sexes*. The loweſt Computation of theſe, is 300,000 Perſons: A great Part of which might, and would be employed in Trade and Manufactures; and the reſt might be uſeful to Society in other Spheres. But that is not all: They are a very heavy Weight upon the Publick: Vaſt Eſtates are appropriated for the Support of *ſome* of theſe Religious Orders; Their Fund is continually accumulating, not only by Legacies and Donations, but alſo by whatever Fortune each Perſon is poſſeſs'd of at the Time of taking the Vow. And others, who have no Property, but are *Mendicants*, are a continual Tax upon the Induſtry and Charity of the People; — and theſe moſtly of the middling and lower Sort. Not to mention the encreaſing Riches and dead Wealth in all their Churches.

IV. A Fourth great Diſadvantage to the Trade of *France* is their *numerous and poor Nobility*. The Nature of that Government requires, That the Notion of *Birth* and *Family* ſhould be kept up very high. This will always create an *indigent* Nobility, and conſequently

ſequently *dependent* upon the Court for ſuch Preferments as may not *deroge*, or bring a Stain upon their Family. Moreover, the ſame refined Policy induces the Court to make the *Military* Service be eſteemed the *moſt honourable*. Thus the whole Body of the Nobility are *devoted* to War; The Richer ſerve for *Glory*; And the Poorer for an *honourable Support*. The Conſequence of all this is, That They heartily deſpiſe the *Bourgeois*, *i.e.* the Merchant and Tradeſman: And He, when He gets Rich, is as deſirous of quitting ſo *diſhonourable* an Employ. He is ambitious of raiſing his Family to be of the *Nobleſſe* too; and therefore leaves off Trade as ſoon as he can, breeds up his Sons to the Military, or purchaſes ſome Office in the Law or Civil Government, which may *ennoble* them.

V. The Trade of *France* ſuffers another Inconvenience by the *Nature of its Taxes*. Some of theſe in certain Provinces are very arbitrary, as the *Taillè*, which is levied moſtly upon the poor Peaſants and Manufacturers in the Country Villages: Others are very heavy, as the Duty upon Salt: Others again are improperly laid, becauſe they are upon the Neceſſaries of Life, which are to feed the Tradeſman. Thus, for Example, all Sorts of Proviſions, Corn, Wine, Butchers Meat, Poultry, Eggs, Fiſh, Garden-Stuff and Fruit muſt

muſt pay a Duty at the Entrance of their great Cities. There are Duties alſo lately laid upon Soap and Candles. And in the *Païs des Etats*, where the moſt grievous of theſe Impoſts are not levied, they lay a *Provincial* Duty upon all Things going in or out of that Province; which makes the Merchandiſe ſo paſſing thro', become the dearer at a foreign Market.

VI. The *Maîtriſes*, which ſo univerſally prevail all over *France*, is a Clog upon the Trade of the Country. Theſe Maîtriſes are much the ſame as our Companies in Towns Corporate: Only We have this Advantage, That We can more eaſily elude their pernicious Effect, by having Shops, *&c.* within Glaſs Windows; And our beſt manufacturing Towns, ſuch as *Birmingham*, *Mancheſter*, *Leeds*, and even Four Fifths of *London* itſelf, *viz. Weſtminſter*, *Southwark*, and all the Suburbs have no Companies at all. Whereas in *France* all Tradeſmen are obliged to be free of their proper Maîtriſe before they can ſet up. The Fine for this in ſome Trades is very conſiderable. And there is alſo in Time of War an Annual Demand for a certain Proportion of Men out of each Maîtriſe, which is underſtood to imply a Sum of Money by way of Equivalent. Thus, the more theſe Maîtriſes become uſeful to ſupply the Exigencies of the Government at a Pinch, the more

more Privileges they will acquire: And the greater any particular Privilege is, the leſs will be the general Trade of the Country.

VII. The *French* ſuſtain ſome Diſadvantage by their *Monopolies and excluſive Charters*. They have an *Eaſt-India* Company at Port *l'Orient*: *Marſeilles* is a Free Port for the *Levant* and *Barbary* Trade; whereas there is a Duty of 20 *per Cent.* upon all Merchandiſe of thoſe Countries, if imported into any other Port of *France* in the *Mediterranean*. And even at *Marſeilles* there is a particular excluſive Company for importing Corn and Wool from *Africa*. *Lions* is free for all Silk entring or going out: whereas there is an heavy Duty in the neighbouring Towns; by which means *Lions* may be ſaid to have an excluſive Charter. And I ſuſpect there is ſomething of the ſame Nature for the *Turkey* Cloth at *Carcaſſonne*, the Silk and Worſted Stockings at *Niſmes*, the Clothing for the Soldiery at *Lodeve*, the Superfine Cloth at *Abbeville*, the Stuffs at *Amiens*, the Camblets at *Arras*, the painted Linens and Cottons at *Roüen*, &c.

VIII. The *French* labour under no ſmall Diſadvantage on Account of the *Expence they are at in the Article of Shipping*. They have more Men to navigate their Ships than the *Engliſh*, becauſe they are not ſo expert Sailors: They muſt carry ſome ſupernumerary Lands-

Landſmen by the King's Orders; They muſt have many Officers to govern theſe Men, becauſe the Merchant is to be reſponſible for them, when the Ship returns. Theſe Officers will have a grand Table, a Cook, and new Bread every Day. The Ship lies long in Port, if ſent to the *Weſt-Indies* to diſpoſe of the Cargo; becauſe their *Creolians* are ſaid to be ſo diſhoneſt, that they do not care to truſt them with Commiſſions: And ſo the Expences of the Officers and Crew run very high. Add to this, That the Officer belonging to the Marine in *France* will find Ways and Means to give great Trouble to the Merchant, both as to the Choice of Sailors and of Officers, unleſs He is *properly conſider'd*; which is generally done by buying ſome Ship Stores of Himſelf or Friend at an exorbitant Price.

IX. The two National Vices of the *French*, *Gaming* and *Fine Cloathes*, is a great Hurt to their Trade. Theſe Expences cannot be ſupported but by a large Profit; And That will always leſſen the Demand at a foreign Market, if their Neighbours can afford to ſell cheaper. Not to mention the Swift Ruin, which Gaming ſometimes brings on; and the Loſs of Time in both.

X. The

X. The Situation of the *French Ports* are a great Diſadvantage to them with reſpect to the *Hamburgh, and Northern Trade:* And in regard to the *Southern* and *Weſt-Indies*, They are not better ſituated, and are not near ſo many, nor ſo good as Ours, eſpecially if we take *Ireland* into the Account. They have only an Advantage with reſpect to the *Mediterranean.*



The

The Principal ADVANTAGES *of* FRANCE *with reſpect to* TRADE.

I.  HE *natural Produce and Commodities of the Country.* Theſe are chiefly Wines, Brandies, Silk, Linen, Hemp, and Oil. I do not mention Corn; For though they raiſe a great deal, yet, as they are great Bread Eaters, they conſume a great deal, and have little to ſpare for Exportation. Their Harveſts alſo are more precarious than ours, and often fail them.

II. THE *Subordination of their People* is an unſpeakable Advantage to them in reſpect to Trade. By this means Their Manufacturers are kept induſtrious: They dare not run into ſhocking Lewdneſs and Debauchery: To Drunkenneſs they are not inclined. They marry, and raiſe up large Families to Labour; ſo always keep down the Price of it; And conſequently by working cheaper, enable the Merchant to ſell the cheaper.

III. The *Rules and Orders* They are obliged to follow is a great Advantage to the Credit of their Manufactures, and conſequently to Trade. All Sorts of Goods for Exportation muſt undergo an Inſpection of the proper Officer in the publick Hall, and receive the Mark and Seal of the Hall, before they are allowed to be expoſed to Sale. And the Bad are confiſcated, with a Fine levied upon the Offender. By which means the fraudulent Deſigns of private Traders, who would get rich at the publick Expence, are prevented; and the Manufactury conſtantly kept up in high Credit.

IV. *Their navigable Rivers, Roads, and Canals* are of ſingular Advantage to their Trade. Their Rivers are indeed for the moſt Part the Work of Nature; The *Seine*, the *Loire*, the *Garonne*, and the *Rhone*, with all the Rivers, which fall into them, help to carry on a Communication with moſt of the great Cities of the Kingdom. Their Roads are more their own proper Praiſe; becauſe they are moſt excellently good, are carried always ſtreight on where the Nature of the Ground would permit, and made at a moſt prodigious Expence; Each Province being obliged to make and keep their own Roads: And yet there is no Expence for Turn-pikes from one End of the Kingdom to the other.

Their

Their Canals alſo are as ſerviceable to Trade by lowering the Price of Carriage, as they are worthy of Admiration, for their Grandeur and Contrivance. Among theſe, that of *Languedoc*, and the two Canals of *Orleans* and *Briare* deſerve particularly to be mentioned. For by means of the former a Communication is opened between *Marſeilles* and *Bordeaux*, between the Ocean itſelf and *Mediterranean*, without paſſing thro' the Streights of *Gibraltar* and ſurrounding all the Coaſts of *Portugal* and *Spain:* And by Virtue of the two latter, an eaſy Intercourſe is maintained between all the great Towns ſituated on the *Seine*, and the *Loire*.

V. They enjoy a great Advantage in the *Goodneſs of their Sugar Colonies*. It is not owing to any ſuperior Policy in *them*, or wrong Conduct in *us*, nor yet any greater Oeconomy in their Planters, or Profuſeneſs in ours (for upon the ſtricteſt Enquiry both will be found to be equally culpable) that they exceed Us in theſe Particulars, but becauſe our Lee-ward Iſlands are wore out, being originally of no Depth of Soil, and the Ground more upon a Level, ſo more ſubject to be burnt up: whereas their Iſlands are ſtill very good: The Ground is rich, the Soil deep; And they have high Hills in *Martinico*, with Water and Shades; by which means Canes of 30 Years planting are ſtill good: Add to this,

this, That the *French* do not uſe the tenth Part of the Sugars for Home Conſumption, which the *Engliſh* do; And therefore have that Commodity to export again to foreign Markets, and with it to encreaſe the National Wealth.

VI. The *Manner of Collecting their Duties upon ſeveral Sorts of Goods imported*, is of greater Advantage to their Trade than one can eaſily imagine. In the Port of *Bordeaux* (and I take it for granted ſo good a Regulation obtains in other Places) there are publick Warehouſes, very good and convenient, adjoining to the Cuſtom-Houſe. And all Proviſions and Goods neceſſary for the Uſe of their Sugar Colonies are there depoſited by the Merchant, till the Ship ſails, Duty free, paying only a moderate Price for Cellarage. When ſhe returns, the Sugars, *&c.* are landed in the King's Warehouſes, where they remain, till the Importer has found out a Purchaſer for a proper Quantity; then He pays the Duty for it, and has it taken away, and lets the reſt continue. Or when he intends to re-export, there it lies ready and convenient for him. By this means he is nenever driven to Streights on Account of the King's Duty; and is enabled to carry on a very extenſive Trade with a ſmall Stock. The Conſequence of which is, That many Perſons are hereby capacitated to enter conſiderably

ably into Commerce, who otherwiſe would have been unavoidably excluded: For 1000*l.* Sterling in *France* will go near as far as 2000 in *England*.——Not to mention, That as there is no Money immediately advanced on Account of the King's Duty, the Merchant's whole Gains will ariſe only from the Money actually in Trade: Now as this is leſs by near one half to what it would have been, had the Duty been all paid at once, conſequently he can afford to ſell at almoſt one half leſs Profit, than he muſt have demanded in the other Caſe.

VII. THEIR *Neighbourhood, and preſent Connection with Spain* is of ſuch Advantage, as is worth all their Trade beſides. For it is certain, That they get more from the *Spaniards* than all the Trading Nations in *Europe* do. Their Poor from *Perigord*, *Limoſin*, and other Places, come yearly into *Spain* to reap their Corn, and gather in their Vintage; and then carry back what they have earned, to ſpend in *France*. The Fiſhermen from *Bayonne*, and the Neighbouring Places ſupply them with great Quantities both of Salt and freſh Fiſh to eat on Faſt-Days, and to keep Lent with. The Pedlars and Shop-keepers in *Spain* are moſtly *French*, who retire into their own Country when they have made their Fortunes. The Towns in *Languedoc* ſupply them with Cloth, Silks, and Stockings;

ings; *Roüen* with Hats, and coarſe Linen Stuffs; *Abbeville* with ſuperfine Cloths; *Amiens* and *Arras* with Worſted and Camblet Stuffs: And *Lions* with all Sorts of Silks, and Gold and Silver Lace for their Conſumption both in *Europe* and *America*. In ſhort, the greateſt part of the Produce of the Mines of *Potoſi* comes into *France*: Hence it is, That their Payments are all in Silver: And Gold is much more ſcarce in *France*, than Silver is in *England*: A plain Proof, that they have the great Trade to *Spain*, as we have to *Portugal*.

VIII. THEIR *Addreſs in drawing raw Materials from other Countries* to work up in their own is a very great Advantage to their Trade. *France* produces ſome Wool and Silk but not a fourth Part of what is made uſe of. Their great Reſource of Wool, is what they import from the *Levant*, *Barbary*, and *Spain*. They alſo bring Wool from *Switzerland*. Some little perhaps is run from *England*; but I have reaſon to believe, not much: The Quantity from *Ireland* is very conſiderable; which is owing to our own wrong Policy. The beſt of their Silks they draw from *Piemont*, the *Levant*, *Italy*, and *Spain*. Their Cotton is brought from the *Levant*; And the Aſhes for making Soap from *Egypt*, *&c. &c.*

IX. THE

IX. The Government of *France* encourages *Foreigners* to trade and ſettle among them, by treating *them* with *particular* Gentleneſs and Indulgence. And the Situation of the Country is greatly aſſiſtant to this Diſpoſition of the Government; For it is ſurrounded with populous, that is, *prolifick* Nations, who have no Trade and Manufactures of their own, to employ their Poor. *Flanders*, all *Germany* on the Side of the *Rhine*, *Switzerland*, and *Savoy*, pour their Supernumerary Hands into *France*, where they are careſſed, and received into the Army, or the Manufacture, according to their Inclinations. The *Rhone* is ſo eaſy and cheap a Conveyance for the Swarms of Inhabitants near the Lake of *Geneva*, that ſo ſmall a Sum as 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* each Perſon will bring them to the chief Manufacturing Town in *France*, viz. *Lions*. And there are ſaid to be no leſs than 10000 *Swiſs* and *Germans* employed in this City. The Numbers alſo in the other Commercial Towns are very great.

X. The *Engliſh Monopolies*, which are *our* Deſtruction, become to *them* of the greateſt *Benefit* and *Advantage*. *Marſeilles* is, as I may ſay, built and Supported by our *Turky* Company. The *Engliſh Hudſon*'s Bay Company is the only Cauſe, which can make the *French* Settlements in ſo wretched a Country as *Canada* to flouriſh. It is this, which

which enables them to underſell Us in all the Articles of Furr; which they apparently do in Times of Peace.

XI. THE Publick Stock of Wealth is greatly encreaſed by *Foreigners* of all Nations *travelling* among them. For while theſe Foreigners reſide in the Country, they not only pay for the Neceſſaries of Living, but alſo buy up many Curioſities, and Cloath themſelves with the Manufacture of it. This gives a Spur to the Genius of their Artificers to be Still inventing Something new and curious; And adds greatly to the Credit of the National Manufacture, and their Goût for Dreſs. The *French*, on the contrary, ſcarce ever travel themſelves; And by that means circulate the Money in their own Country.

XII. FRANCE enjoys a great Advantage with reſpect to Trade, as it doth not loſe much by the Article of *Smuggling* in Compariſon to what *England* doth. This is owing to the Strictneſs of their Government, the many Spies they have upon every Mans Actions, and their being able to puniſh the Slighteſt Offence more Severely, and in a more Summary way, than we can, or is conſiſtent with a free Conſtitution to do.

The

The Principal ADVANTAGES *of* GREAT BRITAIN *with reſpect to* TRADE.

I. THE *natural Produce, and Commodities of the Country*; Corn, Wool, Lead, Tin, Copper, Coal, Butter, Cheeſe, Tallow, Leather: All which are not to be found in *France* in that Plenty and Abundance, which they are in *England*.

II. THE *Number, Goodneſs, and Situation of our Ports.* Thoſe on the *Weſtern* Side of *Great Britain* (eſpecially if We reckon *Ireland* as a Part of ourſelves, and include both *Iſlands* under ONE GENERAL INTEREST, as in Reaſon and Policy we ought to do) are almoſt as well Situated for the *Southern Trade*, as the *French*; They are four times as many in Number, and much better for Safety and Water. And as to the *North* and *Baltick Trade*, The *French Ports* can come into no Compariſon with ours.

III. ENGLAND enjoys another Advantage by means of its *free Government, and Liberty of Conſcience.* A *Merchant* can go to Law with the *Crown* as eaſily as with a private Subject. The Judges are for Life, and not under the immediate Influence of the Court. No Man's Perſon can be detained, but a Reaſon muſt be given, and the Matter brought to an open Trial, where his Equals are to be his Judges, and to decide between him and the Crown, whether He has committed an Offence againſt the *State*, or not.

AND as to Matters of *Religion*, He is permitted to Worſhip GOD in his own Way without Fear or Reſerve; and may educate his Children how He pleaſes. The *Roman Catholicks* indeed are under ſome *legal* Diſcouragements; but it is plain, the Legiſlature conſidered them more as a *Political* than a *Religious* Sect, when thoſe Laws were enacted. And the preſent Government by it's Conduct towards them, has given them ſufficiently to underſtand, That they ſhall not be diſturbed in the free Exerciſe of their Religion, *provided they will give no Diſturbance to the State in Civil Affairs by ſiding with it's Enemies.* This ſurely is but a reaſonable Demand; And here the Matter ſeems to reſt.

IV. ENG-

IV. ENGLAND has always enjoyed an Advantage in Trade, as it's *Manufacturers* have ever been in high Repute for their *Skill* and *Ingenuity*. Our Locks, Chains, Clock-Work, and Cutlery Ware exceed all others at this Day. And our Sailors are conſiderably ſuperior to the *French* in their Art and Dexterity.

V. ENGLAND enjoys a very viſible Advantage over FRANCE, *as the whole Bulk of our People may be concerned in Trade if they pleaſe*, without any Diſreputation to their Families. To be a *Merchant* is eſteemed full as honourable as to be an *Officer*. And no Man need leave off Trade, when He finds himſelf Rich, in order to be reſpected as a *Gentleman*. It is likewiſe no Scandal for Younger Brothers of the moſt antient Family to be bred to Trade and Buſineſs.

VI. WE enjoy a ſingular Advantage by our *vaſt Colonies on the Continent of America*. From *Newfound-land* to *Georgia* is an immenſe Country; where all the Inhabitants do uſe more or leſs of the Growth and Manufacture of their Mother Country; And *England* again receives the Produce and Growth of theirs. This is a mutual Benefit, and is ſtill improveable.

VII. The *Iſland of Jamaica* has ſome Advantages over any of the *French Iſlands*, on Account of it's Situation, to carry on a beneficial Trade with the *Spaniſh Main*; he Sweets of which have been ſufficiently felt of late, ſo as to need no further Illuſtration. And this Iſland is capable of great Improvements in many other Reſpects.

VIII. The *very Wants of Great Britain* in one Reſpect might be turned into a ſingular Advantage over the *French* in another. It is certain, *France* cannot carry on a Trade to moſt Countries with that Advantage to the Country it trades with, as the *Engliſh* can. For Example, the *Engliſh* can trade with the *Spaniards* to *mutual* Advanage: If The *Engliſh* export Cloth and Stuffs to *Spain*; they can take off Fruits, Oil, and Wine, by Way of Barter. Whereas the *French* can make no Uſe of theſe Commodities, having ſo much of the ſame of their own Growth both to uſe, and to ſpare. A Conſideration of this Nature well timed, and ſtrongly urged, might have a good Effect upon the *Spaniſh* Court to induce them to favour the *Engliſh* Commerce, and diſcourage the *French*. It is owing to the ſucceſsful Application of Sir *Paul Methuen* on this very Head, when Envoy to the Court of *Portugal*, that the *Engliſh* at this Day enjoy the whole Trade of *Portugal*, and that the *French*, in a manner, are excluded.

The Principal DISADVANTAGES *which* GREAT BRITAIN *labours under in Reſpect to* TRADE.

I. THE firſt and capital one, is the *Want of Subordination in the lower Claſs of People.* This is attended with dreadful Conſequences, both in a *Commercial* and a *Moral* View. If they are ſubject to little or no Controul, they will run into Vice: This is attended with Expence, which muſt be ſupported either by a high Price for their Labour, or by ſtill more deſtructive Methods. It ends in Poverty and Diſeaſe; And ſo they become a loathſome Burden to the Publick. Nothing is more viſible, than the *great Difference between the Morals and Induſtry of the manufacturing Poor in France, and in England.* In the Former, they are ſober, frugal, and laborious. The Cities are free from *Street Walkers.* The common People marry, and have Flocks of Children, whom they bring up to Labour: In the latter they are given up to Drunkenneſs and Debauchery: The Women

Women walk the Streets and Spread the Infection, till they are rotten; And then are carried to an Hoſpital, or to their Grave. The Men are as bad as can be deſcribed: Both Sexes never working, while they have any thing to ſpend upon their Vices.

II. THE *prodigious Expence of Electioneering is another fatal Stab to Trade.* It is not only ſo much Money Spent, but it is Spent moſtly upon *Manufacturers*; And ſo it gives them a Taſt for Idleneſs, and a thirſt after Drunkenneſs and all Extravagance. The want alſo of Subordination juſt now complained of, is moſtly to be imputed to the Same Cauſe, as it ſets them above reſtraint, frees them from Controul, and brings down the Rich to pay their Court to *them*, contrary to the natural Order of Society.

III. ANOTHER very great Burden on the *Engliſh* Commerce is the *vaſt Numbers of Poor*; And thoſe every Day encreaſing. If we trace the Matter to it's Fountain-head, we ſhall find it to be owing moſtly to the ſame Cauſes, *viz.* Electioneering, and the Want of Subordination. And if a Calculation was made of the Expences of Electioneering and the Conſequences of it, together with the annual poor Tax, I am very ſure it would much exceed, in the Proportion, what

what *France* expends in maintaining 300,000 *Religious* of both Sexes: So that we gain no Advantage over *France* in this reſpect, by our own Diſſoluteneſs and Miſmanagement.

IV. Our Trade is greatly burthened by the Nature of *moſt of our Taxes, and the Manner of Collecting them.* The Cuſtoms on Goods imported make thoſe Goods come much dearer to the Conſumer, than they would do, if the Conſumer himſelf was to pay the Duty: And this becomes a ſtrong Temptation to our People to *Smuggle.* The Taxes upon the Neceſſaries of Life, are in fact ſo many Taxes upon Trade and Induſtry: And ſuch muſt be accounted the Duties upon Soap, Coal, Candles, Salt and Leather. The expenſive Manner likewiſe of collecting them is ſtill an additional Diſadvantage; ſuch as the Multiplication and Splitting of Offices, Patent-Places, Fees, Sine-Cures, Penſions, *&c. &c.* Theſe Things indeed Create a Dependence upon the Court, and are ſaid to Strengthen the Hands of the Government in *one* reſpect; but they weaken it much more in *another.* They give too much Cauſe to Complaint; the beſt Friends of the preſent Eſtabliſhment are grieved to ſee any Meaſures which they cannot juſtify. Repeated Murmers, where there is a Real Foundation for them, naturally tend to alienate the Affections of the Maſs of the People,

People, which above all Things ſhould be guarded againſt; becauſe in Times of actual Danger it is the People, and not the Place-Men and Penſioners, who can ſave the Government, and oppoſe themſelves againſt the Invaſion of Foreign, or the Inſurrection of Domeſtick Enemies. As was plainly ſeen in the late Rebellion.

V. The *great Number of Smugglers* in *England* are of infinite Detriment to Trade. They carry nothing but Bullion, or Wool out of the Kingdom, and Return moſtly with the Commodities of *France*. They are the neceſſary Cauſe of creating many Offices, of maintaining Sloops, Smacks *&c.* to guard againſt them; And they furniſh a Pretence for adding many more. Thus they become doubly Miſchievous. They tempt others to do the like, for fear of being ruined by being underſold. The Practice of *Smuggling* Debauches the Morals of the Common People, it leads them into Perjury, and tutors them in all Vice and Extravagance. So many Expences incurred, ſo many Deficiences in the Revenue and bad Conſequences muſt be made up by other Duties not ſo liable to be embezzled. And therefore Fact it is, That every Man in paying Taxes for Land, *&c.* pays for the Damage done, or cauſed by *Smuggling*. And yet till there is a proper Subordination introduced, and the Qualification for Voting

ſome-

ſomething alter'd from what it is at preſent, it is eaſy to ſee, there can never be any effectual Cure for this growing Evil. Smugglers are for the moſt Part Inhabitants of Boroughs and Towns Corporate: They, or their Relations, Friends, Dealers, Acquaintance, &c. are VOTERS: And——*Verbum ſat ſapienti.*

VI. *Our Monopolies, publick Companies, and Corporate Charters* are the Bane and Deſtruction of a free Trade. By the Charter of the *Eaſt-India* Company, at leaſt nine thouſand nine hundred and ninety-nine *Britiſh* Subjects, out of 10,000, without having committed any Fault to deſerve ſuch a Puniſhment, are excluded from trading any where beyond the Cape of *Good-Hope*. By the Charter of the *Turky* Company a like, or a greater Number are excluded from having any Commerce with the whole *Turkiſh* Empire. The *Hudſon's Bay* Company engroſſes all the Fur Trade with the *Indians* in thoſe Parts. And the *South-Sea* Company takes in the vaſt Extent of *South America*, and ſome Part of the *North*. Thus the Intereſt of 9,999 fellow Subjects muſt be ſacrificed, in ſo many Reſpects, for the Sake of a *ſingle one:* The whole Nation muſt ſuffer in its Commerce, and be debarred trading to more than three-fourths of the Globe to enrich a few rapacious Directors. *They* get wealthy the very ſame Way by which the *Publick* becomes

poor, *viz.* 1*ſt*, *By raiſing the Price of the* Engliſh *Manufactures Abroad, and exporting but a ſmall Quantity of them, that the foreign Market may not be over-ſtocked: And* 2*dly*, *by importing but a few of the raw Materials of Foreign Countries, that they may have the higher Price for what they bring home.* —— A double Miſchief! equally fatal to the Community either Way.

And as to Corporate Charters and Companies of Trades, they are likewiſe ſo many Monopolies in the Places to which they belong, to the great Detriment of Trade in general. To convince any one of this, Let him but ſuppoſe a Set of Town and Country Butchers frequenting the ſame Market; And that the Country Butchers were excluded for a Market or two; would not the Town Butchers immediately raiſe their Price? *i. e.* put all their fellow Citizens under Contribution by means of this Privilege? And doth not every other Company do the ſame in all Things they ſell? And what is the Conſequence? — A general Dearneſs among one another, which muſt light at laſt upon the Foreign Trade, and therefore diminiſh the Quantity to be exported.

VII. Our *Imprudence and narrow-ſpiritedneſs in not inviting Foreigners to ſettle among Us*, is another material Diſadvantage to the *Engliſh* Trade. Foreigners can never get rich

rich among Us, but by working *cheaper* or *better* than the Natives. And if they do ſo, though *Individuals* may ſuffer, the *Publick* is certainly a Gainer; As there is ſo much Merchandize to be exported on cheaper Terms, or ſo much *ſaved* to a Merchant, whereby his Expences are leſſened, and he may afford to export the cheaper. Not to mention, That by this means, the Price of Labour is continually beat down, Induſtry is encouraged, and an Emulation excited: All which are greatly for the Publick Good.

Beſides, a Foreigner, juſt eſcaped from Slavery and Oppreſſion, when He gets rich in a Land of Liberty and Plenty, is not likely to return home, but will ſettle among Us, and become one of ourſelves with his whole Family. And what are ALL *Engliſhmen* but the Deſcendants of Foreigners? In ſhort, It is the ſame weak Policy to prevent Foreigners ſettling among us, as it is in the Poor about *London*, to grumble at the *Welſh* and *Iriſh* coming up to work in the Gardens, or to reap, and carry in the Harveſt; not conſidering, That if the Gardiner, or Farmer could not have his Work done cheap, He could not afford to ſell the Garden-Stuff, Bread, *&c.* cheap to them. So that They themſelves find their Account in the Cheapneſs of theſe Perſon's Labour. Indeed *we* ſhould give MORE Encouragement, if poſſible, to Strangers than *France* doth, as for many other

Reaſons, ſo particularly for this, That the *Swiſs*, *Germans*, *Piemontiſe*, *Italians*, *&c.* can arrive at moſt of the Manufacturing Towns in *France* at a trifling Expence; whereas the long Journey from their own Country, and the Paſſage over into *England*, are a very great Diſcouragement to Manufacturers to come to Us.

VIII. OUR *ill judged Policy, and unnatural Jealouſy in cramping the Commerce and Manufactures of* IRELAND, is another very great Bar to the extending our Trade. If *Ireland* gets rich, what is the Conſequence? *England* will be rich too; And *France* will be the poorer. The Wool, which is now ſmuggled from *Ireland* into *France*, and manufactured there, and from thence ſent to Market to oppoſe our own Commodities, would be manufactured in *Ireland*; The *French* would loſe the Benefit of it, the *Iriſh* would get it;—The Rents of the *Iriſh* Gentlemen's Eſtates would riſe; And then the Money would ſoon find its Way into *England*. Beſides, the *Iriſh* might be incorporated into the *Engliſh* Parliament, and make one Nation with ourſelves, bearing an equal Share of Taxes, and ſo eaſing *England* at the ſame Time that *Ireland* is enriched. But more of this hereafter.

IX. WANT *of a leſs expenſive Way of Repairing our Roads; Want of more Navigable Rivers*

Rivers and Canals are a very great Diſadvantage to *England* in Compariſon of *France*. Every one muſt be ſenſible of the heavy Tax, which ſo many *Turnpikes* lay upon Trade; And how bad even the *Turnpike-Roads* are in many Parts of the Country. We have no Canals to open a Communication between City and City, River and River; though our Country in moſt Places, is much better adapted for them than *France*.

X. We labour under a very great Diſadvantage, *as moſt of our Lee-ward Iſlands are worn out*, and not ſo fertile as the *French*; And therefore require greater Expence to cultivate them: So that our Sugars come the dearer, and we have not much to ſpare for Foreign Markets, after our home Conſumption is provided for.

XI. We alſo ſuffer a further Inconvenience *in not inviting Foreigners to travel into* England, and ſpend their Money among Us; And in *being too fond of travelling Ourſelves*. It is certain, That *England* has as many Curioſities for a Foreigner to obſerve, as any Country in the World. The whole Iſland, and every thing belonging to it, is in many Reſpects different from the Continent, and worthy a Stranger's Attention. And even as to fine *Paintings*, *original Statues*, and *Antiques*, we have prodigious Collections of them in private Hands,

Hands, though little known even to our own Countrymen, for want of a *publick* and *general* Catalogue. Moreover, our *Engliſh* Travellers in *France* and *Italy* are continually making new Collections in order to carry home, and embelliſh their own Country. And yet our Gentry are ſo ſhy to Strangers, our Servants expect ſo much Vails from them, and the Common People are ſo rude and affronting to them, that few or none care to travel in ſuch a Country.

XII. The *high Price of Labour is another inſuperable Bar to a large Trade:* The Cauſes of which have been aſſigned already.

XIII. We ſuffer a very great Detriment *thro' the Want of Publick Inſpectors to ſee that our Manufacturers produce every thing good in its Kind*, that they give good Meaſure, and fold the worſe Side Outermoſt. And what is ſtill worſe, where ſuch have been appointed, they have degenerated through ſome unhappy Miſ-management and Abuſe, ſo far as to encreaſe the Evil they were intended to correct. The *Blackwell-Hall* Factors are certainly a Nuſance to Trade, not a Service to it. And thus Things have gone on from Bad to Worſe, to the Loſs and Damage of the Publick.

XIV. Add to all theſe, the *Diſcouragements and Oppoſitions, which the moſt generous*

ous Scheme will too often meet with from ſelf-intereſted and deſigning Perſons among Us, thro' the ſhameful Abuſe of Liberty and a free Conſtitution. In a deſpotick Kingdom, the Miniſtry have none to oppoſe them in their good Deſigns: But among Us, let their Plan be never ſo well calculated for the Publick Good, yet if it claſhes with the Private Intereſt of any particular Perſons, trading Companies, or Boroughs (as it neceſſarily muſt do) then it will be oppoſed under various Pretences, by the United Force of ſuch *falſe Patriots*, and will be blackened and miſ-repreſented in the moſt malevolent Manner.

Beſides: In an Abſolute Government there is no Poſſibility of gaining Preferment by making One's Self formidable to the Miniſtry: Whereas *here* it is the ſure Road to it. A bold, plauſible Speaker in the Houſe, embarraſſes the Scheme of the Miniſtry, not becauſe He thinks it wrong, but becauſe he expects to be bought off by a Place or a Penſion. A News-writer, or a Pamphleteer will put every Meaſure of the Court in the moſt Odious Light, in order to make his Paper ſell the better, or to be thought conſiderable enough to be retained on their Side. On the other Hand, the Miniſtry are too apt to endeavour to quaſh a Motion, not becauſe it was a *bad* one, but becauſe it came from the Party in the Oppoſition.

Theſe

Theſe are Evils, which I deſpair of ſeeing effectually removed or cured, without introducing worſe in their Stead, unleſs Men were much honeſter and better than they are; —— which I fear is not likely to be ſoon the Caſe.

CERTAIN PROPOSALS *for remedying many of the above-mentioned Inconveniences, and retrieving the Trade and Credit of* GREAT BRITAIN.

I. PROPOSAL.

TO *alter the Qualification of Voting, aud to introduce a juſt Subordination among the People.*—— * When 40*s.* a Year was fixed upon as a Standard for a Voting-Freeholder, it was certainly more than an Equivalent to 20*l. per Ann.* of modern Rent. Sup-

* The very Recital of the Statute, which aſcertained the Qualification of Voting Freeholders, is the beſt Proof of the Reaſonableneſs and Neceſſity of what is here propoſed.

" *Anno octavo* HENRICI VI. *Cap.* 7.

What Sort of Men ſhall be Chooſers, and who ſhall be choſen Knights of the Parliament.

' WHEREAS the Elections of Knights of Shires, to come ' to the Parliament of our Lord the King in many Counties of ' the Realme of *England*, have *now of late* been made by *very* ' *great outragious and exceſſive Number* of People, dwelling with- ' in the ſame Counties of the Realme of *England*, of the which

Suppoſe now, That 20 *l. per Ann.* was the requiſite Sum for a Freeholder, and 200 *l.* Stock in Trade for a Tradeſman to qualify them to vote; the immediate Conſequence would neceſſarily be, that the Manufacturing Part of our Nation would not be called from their Work to run a roving after every Elect-

' moſt Part was of People of *ſmall Subſtance, and of no Value;*
' whereof every of them pretended a Voice equivalent as to ſuch
' Elections to be made, with the moſt worthy Knights and
' Eſquires dwelling within the ſame Counties, whereby *Man-*
' *ſlaughter, Riots, Batteries, and Diviſions* among the Gentlemen,
' and other People of the ſame Counties, ſhall very likely riſe
' and be, unleſſe convenient and due Remedy be provided in this
' Behalf: Our Lord the King conſidering the Premiſes, hath
' provided ordained, and ſtabliſhed by Authority of this preſent
' Parliament, that the Knights of the Shires to be choſen within
' the ſame Realme of *England*, to come to the Parliaments of our
' Lord the King, hereafter to be holden, ſhall be choſen in ev-
' ery County of the Realme of *England*, by People dwelling and
' reſident in the ſame Counties, whereof every one of them ſhall
' have Land or Tenement, to the Value of *forty Shillings by the*
' *Year at leaſt, above all Charges*, and that they which ſhall be
' ſo choſen, ſhall be dwelling and reſident within the ſame Coun-
' ties. . . . . Provided always, that he which cannot expend
' *forty Shillings by the Year, as afore is ſaid*, ſhall in *no wiſe be*
' *Choſer* of the Knights for the Parliament."

Here we find the ſame Cauſe producing the ſame Effect in former Times as in the preſent. Only there is this Difference, that the Evil could not be near ſo great then, as now, both becauſe the Common People were uſed to much greater Subordination, and the Trade of the Kingdom was very inconſiderable, conſequently could not have ſuffered by it in any Degree to what it doth at preſent. And yet if ſuch were the Reaſons which induced the Legiſlature to paſs the above recited Act at that Time, how much more Reaſon have We to follow their Example now? —— The preſent Value of 40*s.* is not a tenth Part of what they intended: Therefore, if We would keep up to the *Spirit* and *Meaning* of this Law, We ſhould at leaſt fix the Qualification at 20 *l. per Annum.*

ioneering:

ioneering: A proper Subordination would be effectually introduced: The Laws againſt Idleneſs and Debauchery might be executed; And Smuggling in a great meaſure ſuppreſſed: And all this without running the Riſk of diſobliging ſuch Voters, and loſing their Votes. Moreover, when Things were put upon ſuch a Footing, it would be a Matter of *Honour* and *Reputation* to have a Vote; And conſequently the Voter would pique himſelf more upon his Integrity and Uncorruptneſs, than he now doth. He would be above that Bribery and Corruption, which appear ſo openly and avowedly on all Sides at preſent throughout the Kingdom. Likewiſe a Spirit of Emulation and Induſtry would be excited: And the Privilege of Voting would become a laudable Inducement to every *Artificer* (not to get *Drunk*, or to take a paultry *Bribe*, as at preſent is the Caſe, but) to be *frugal* and *ſaving* in order to raiſe himſelf to the Degree of a *Voter*. And moſt Artificers might accompliſh this by a few Years Induſtry after they are ſet up. The Number alſo of the Poor would conſequently be leſſened; the Price of Labour reduced; And the Perſons themſelves, who would be debarred of Voting by ſuch a ſuppoſed Bill, much happier, much richer, and quieter than they now are. Add to this, That a Militia for Land Service, and a Regiſter for the Sea Service might then be introduced, if it was judged expedient; whereas at preſent

it is impracticable; becauſe ſuch a Power, whereever lodged, would infallibly be applied to the bad Purpoſes of influencing Votes at the Time of Elections.

II. Proposal.

To *reduce the Number of Repreſentatives in Parliament for thoſe Six Weſtern Counties, which are oppoſite to* France, *viz.* Cornwall, Devonſhire, Somerſetſhire, Dorſetſhire, Wiltſhire, *and* Hampſhire; *And to take about Sixty of the* Iriſh *Parliament into our Houſe of Commons to ſupply their Room.* Sixty or Eighty, (or more if neceſſary) might very well be ſpared from theſe Weſtern Counties: And ſeveral Boroughs, which now ſend two Members each, be joined together, and ſend but one.

III. Proposal.

After ſuch an Union of the Two Kingdoms, *To lay the* Engliſh *Taxes gradually upon* Ireland, *and to eaſe the* Engliſh *of the worſt of theirs by the ſame Gradation.* Suppoſe the firſt Year, The *Engliſh* Exciſe, and Duty upon *French* Wines and Brandies, are extended to *Ireland*; then *England* might be eaſed of the Salt Tax the ſame Year. If in the ſecond Year, *Ireland* is charged with the Stamp Duties, *England* might be diſcharged of the Tax upon Soap and Candles. If in the third the

the Windows are charged with a Duty in *Ireland*, the Coal Duties might be taken off from *England*. If in the fourth, the Tax is laid upon Coaches, this would be ſufficient to enable the Parliament to take off the Duties upon our own Leather.

IV. Proposal.

To *ſet up Woollen and Silk Manufactures in the Weſt of* England, *and the South-Weſt of* Ireland, *in order to rival the French.* * The

* The Price of Labour at the Places hereafter mentioned were given me as follows.

Abbeville and *Amiens*: Journeymen Weavers, and Cloth Workers, according to the Nature of the Work, and their Dexterity, from 20 to 50 Sous *per* Day.

Ditto, Women employed in the Manufacture, not more than 12 Sous *per* Day.

Hedgers and Ditchers in the Country, about 10 Sous *per* Day.

Lille: Journeymen Stocking and Camblet Weavers, about 24 Sous *per* Day.

Nantes: Journeymen Ship Carpenters, about 30 Sous *per* Day.

Caſtelnaudary: Labourers mending the Canal of Languedoc, by the Job, 12 Sous *per* Day.

Niſmes: Journeymen Weavers in the Silk and Stocking Trade, from 30 to 35 Sous *per* Day.

Marſeilles: Journeymen Taylors, 30 Sous *per* Day.

Ditto, Carpenters. 30 Sous *per* Day.

Ditto, Silk Weavers, from 30 to 35 Sous *per* Day.

Toulon, Journeymen Carpenters in the King's Yard, 30 Sous.

Lions: Journeymen Workmen have ſeveral Prices, according to the Silks, Velvets, Gold Stuffs, Lace, *&c. &c.* from 50 to 100 Sous *per* Day.

Land Carriage of Goods from *Marſeilles* to *Lions*, and *Vice verſa* (230 *Engliſh* Miles) which is often done either for Speed or for ſafety; the *Rhone* being difficult to mount; and fine Goods may take Damage in going down, Per C. (108 *lb. Eng.*) from 6 to 7 Livres.

Price

Price of Labour is there as cheap as any where in *France*; And when a proper Subordination is introduced, and a Trade open, it is probable it might be much Cheaper: By which means the *French* would be beat out of a great deal of their *Levant* and *Spaniſh* Trade. But in order to effectuate this, we muſt have Recourſe to the

V. Proposal.

Viz. To *demoliſh our excluſive Companies*, beginning with the *Turkey* and *Hudſon*'s Bay Companies; which hurt the Trade of *Great Britain* more eſſentially with reſpect to *France* than any other Company can do.

VI. Proposal.

To *Encourage Foreign Merchants and Tradeſmen to ſettle among Us*, by a general Naturalization Act for *all Proteſtants*. And if it be judged improper to admit them into Offices of Truſt or Power, it is eaſy to add a Clauſe, That theſe Things ſhall ſtill be confined to the natural born Subjects.

VII. Proposal.

To *invite Foreigners of Diſtinction to travel among Us*, that ſo We may have ſomething in Return for the vaſt Sums, which we yearly

yearly ſend abroad. To this End, there is wanting a conciſe Treatiſe in *French* and *Engliſh*, ſetting forth the Advantages, which Perſons of different Taſtes and Inclinations may enjoy by ſuch a Tour; The Man of Pleaſure and Diverſion— The Virtuoſo— The Scholar and Man of Letters— The Lawyer— Phyſician— Divine— Merchant, *&c.* with Directions how to perform a regular Tour—a ſhorter or a longer—what Things are moſt remarkable to be ſeen— Churches— Seats— Gardens Pictures—-Manufactures—Ports, *&c.* — what Books or Treatiſes may be conſulted; how to learn the Language: With the proper Stages marked out, and a Calculation of the Expence in the moderate Way of Travelling.

VIII. Proposal.

To *cut ſome Canals between our great Towns of Trade.* Canals are much preferable to the making Rivers navigable, even where both might be done. For in the firſt Place, the Expence is not greater, except, perhaps, the Purchaſe of the Ground: In the next Place, they are kept and repaired at a much eaſier Rate; They are not ſubject to Inundations, or to the Shifting of the Sand and Gravel; They are generally much ſhorter and ſtreighter. But what is above every other Conſideration, A Boat loaden with Merchandize in a Canal, may be drawn by a ſingle Horſe, on a full

a full Trot, as in *Holland*, either up or down the Stream, and that whether it be a Flood, or not; and it requires but two Men to navigate it.

If a Canal was cut between *Reading* and *Bath*, there would then be an eaſy Communication between the two Principal Cities of the Kingdom, *London* and *Briſtol*; And Goods and Paſſengers might be carried at one quarter of the preſent Expence. And Surely 75. *l. per Cent.* ſaved in Freight, deſerves Conſideration. The River *Kennet* from *Reading* to *Silbury-Hill* is a plain Illuſtration how practicable ſuch a Scheme might be ſo far. And from thence to the Deſcent towards *Caln* is the only Difficulty on the *Bath* ſide. But thoſe, who have ſeen the great Canal of *Languedoc*, know full well, that it might eaſily be performed, and at a fortieth Part of the Expence, which the other was. A Canal alſo ought to be dug between *Edinburgh* and *Glaſcow*. And our Regiments in Times of Peace might work alternately at it, receiving ſome ſmall Addition to their Pay when they are at work.

IX. Proposal.

To *raiſe a Fiſhery on the Northern Coaſts of Scotland*, by giving a double Premium (for ſome Years) for all Herrings caught and cured by Perſons reſiding within certain Diſtricts, and exported to foreign Markets.

X. Proposal.

To *make Gibralter and Port-Mahon free Ports and Magazines for our Levant and Mediterranean Trade.* The long time, which Ships are often forced to wait for a favourable Wind in the Streights-Mouth is a very great Detriment at preſent. But if they were to unload their *Engliſh* Merchandiſe at *Gibralter*, and to find their Cargo ready for returning home, the Trade might be carried on to much greater Advantage, and with greater Expedition. The Iſland of *Minorca* is commodiouſly Situated for vending great Quantities of *Engliſh* Goods into *France* and *Italy*. If a Scheme of this kind was to take Place, the Iſland would alſo then ſtand a fair Chance of being peopled by many *Engliſh* Families, or by thoſe well affected to the *Engliſh* Crown. Whereas at preſent there are ſcarce any except the Garriſon, but bigotted *Spaniards*, who at the firſt taking of the Place, would have been glad to have parted with their Poſſeſſions for a Trifle, and to have retired, But now, they are got *immenſely* rich: Their Lands are ſaid to be more than five Times their former Value: And yet their Bigottry and Averſion continue as ſtrong as ever.

XI. Proposal.

To *have publick Inſpectors of all our Manufactures*; To ſee, that there is no private Fraud in packing, no Deficiency of Weight, or Meaſure; And that in every Kind of Merchandiſe the Worſt is put Outermoſt for a Sample, not the Beſt; ſo that the Buyer, in ſeeing the Mark and Seal of the Office, is ſure not to be deceived by what is out of Sight. This, if faithfully and honeſtly executed, would always keep up the *Credit* of our Manufactures, on which depend the *Spirit* and *Life* of Trade; and would prevent the fraudulent and deceitful to get rich at the Expence of the Publick, and their honeſt Neighbours.

XII. Proposal.

To *alter the Method of collecting our Duties upon particular Sorts of Goods imported*, viz. By lodging them in Warehouſes erected at the publick Expence, till the Importer fetches them away, according as he wants them, and pays the Duty, or cauſes it to be paid by the Perſon who purchaſes of him. This Scheme I am ſenſible, would raiſe a great Clamour, if enforced by any *compulſive* Law; But if left to each Perſon's *free Choice*, there is the higheſt Probability, that

that it would univerſally obtain. Suppoſe therefore, That the Laws relating to the Cuſtoms in general ſhould continue as they are; But that *Permiſſion* ſhould be granted to ſuch Perſons as are *deſirous* of uſing it, to land their Goods in the *publick* Magazines, there to remain at the uſual moderate Rent for Cellerage, till ſuch Time as they find it their Intereſt to remove them, and then to pay the Duty. If ſuch a Permiſſion was granted to the Importers of *Sugars*, *Rum*, *Wines*, *Brandies*, *Tobacco*, *Raiſins*, *Prunes*, and *Currants*, it is eaſy to foreſee, That almoſt every one concerned, would embrace it. For, in the firſt Place, the Expence of Warehouſe Room would be juſt the ſame; but the Difference between paying the Duty *all at once* upon Importation, and paying it *by Degrees*, would be very great, and much to the Advantage both of the Importer and the Publick. The Importer would be a Gainer, as he would not be ſtreightned for Money to pay the Duties every time his Ship arrives; and might keep his Goods till he ſaw a promiſing Market, or might export them to ſome Foreign Country, if they bore there a better Price. And this itſelf would be a great Advantage to the Publick, as it would render *our* Country a kind of common Magazine for *others*, and as we ſhould get by it all the Profits of Freight, Commiſſion, &c. Moreover, the Publick would

be more eſpecially benefitted, as the Trade would be encreaſed, and the Goods afforded much the cheaper.——When a Trade can be carried on with a *ſmall* Stock, the more Perſons are capable of embarking in it; And when the Duties are not paid all at once, but by Degrees, as the Goods can be ſold, the *Home-Conſumer* will buy ſo much the cheaper. For he will only pay the King's ſimple Duty,—the Expences of the Adventure,—and the Merchant's ſingle Gains upon that Adventure: Whereas, according to the preſent Way of collecting the Revenue, every Conſumer pays *another* conſiderable Article, viz. *The Gains of the Merchant on the Sums advanced to pay the King's Duty.* And if the Goods have paſſed from the Merchant *Importer* to the laſt *Retailer*, thro' two or three Hands, before they come to the Conſumer, then He pays *two* or *three* Advances the more. * So that in fact, He not only pays the *firſt* Duty to the King, but perhaps twice as much again to others, by Means of theſe *Advances* upon *Advances.* The Conſequence of all which is, That Trade becomes monopolized by a few Rich Perſons, becauſe there is a greater Stock required to carry it on; And *Smugglers* will

* See this Affair ſet in a *true* and *ſtrong* Light in a Treatiſe entitled, *An Eſſay on the Cauſes of the Decline of the Foreign Trade, Lond.* 1744. Printed for *J. Bretherton.* Pages 16 and 17.

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be the *more numerous*, and the more audacious, becauſe the *Temptations* to, and the *Gains* of *Smuggling* become ſo much the greater. Whereas by the Method now propoſed, both theſe Miſchiefs would be prevented to a great Degree.--☞ Obſerve, The Propoſal here made, *compells* no Perſons to ſubmit to theſe Regulations, but only *permits* them to make uſe of them, if they are *diſpoſed* to do it. --☞ Obſerve alſo, That this Scheme requires no *new Officers* even at the Commencement of it: And when it has been thoroughly tried and known, it would certainly greatly *leſſen the Number* of them. A Set of Publick Magazines (which, by the By, might be ſo contrived, as to be *ornamental*, as well as *uſeful*) built uniformly, and in a Quadrangular Figure, might eaſily be taken Care of and inſpected by a very few Officers, who might well be ſpared from the Numbers now employed as *Land-Waiters*, *Tide-Waiters*, *Searchers*, *Deputies*, *Extraordinary Men*, &c. &c.——☞ Obſerve, 3dly, That with reſpect to any *Embezzlement*, which theſe Magazine-keepers might be ſuſpected of, this might be prevented, as much as any thing of ſuch a Nature can poſſibly be (not only by Weighing the Goods, Gauging them, and taking Samples before they are delivered into the Officers Care) but alſo by making it neceſſary, That theſe Officers ſhould be engaged with two ſufficient Bondſmen in two

Sorts

Sorts of Securities, one to the King, to enforce their Fidelity to him, and another to the Mayor or chief Magiſtrate of the Town, and his Succeſſors, where the Magazine is kept, in Truſt for the Merchants, to enſure their Honeſty to them: And that when any of theſe Officers are ſuſpected of Embezzleing the Merchants Property, the Party aggrieved may be at Liberty to bring an Action in the Name of the Mayor or chief Magiſtrate for the Time being, and recover treble Damages with Coſts of Suit, on Proof of ſuch Embezzlement. Now in *all* theſe Reſpects the *Preſent* Propoſal differs entirely from the *late famous Exciſe Scheme*; And *every* Objection made againſt *that*, is obviated *here*. As to the *Expence* in erecting theſe ſuppoſed Magazines, which is the only Difficulty attending the preſent Propoſal; what I am going next to offer, if put in Execution, would raiſe a Fund more than ſufficient to anſwer it; viz.

XIII. Proposal.

To *check the prevailing Mode of living Batchelors, by ſome ſalutary penal Law*; the Fine of which might be applied to the erecting publick Magazines, or Warehouſes for the Uſes abovementioned. The manifold ill Conſequences attending the Practice of living Batchelors, are too glaring and evident.

dent. For we may venture to pronounce, without any Degree of Uncharitableneſs, That it is *one* great Cauſe of all the Lewdneſs and Debauchery of this Age. Some *few* indeed undoubtedly there are, who no ways contribute to theſe Immoralities by their ſingle Life; But they are too inconſiderable in Number to deſerve to have particular Exemptions, even were it poſſible to diſtinguiſh them from others, which it is not poſſible to do in a legal Way. In all things calculated for the *general* Good, ſome *Individuals* muſt ſuffer; and it cannot be avoided. Now (to conſider this Matter merely in a *commercial* Light) as there are at leaſt Ninety-Nine in an Hundred, who gratify their Deſires, but *ſo as to add* no *proper* Increaſe to the *Publick* Stock of Inhabitants, in which the *Riches* and *Strength* of a Nation do conſiſt, one may eaſily judge of the Evil of ſuch a Practice by it's bad Conſequences. And in *London* particularly, where this Vice of living Batchelors *moſtly prevails*, there it is obſervable, by the Bills of Mortality, that more Perſons die, than are born every Year. So that were it not for the continual Supplies from the Country, where the Marriage State is not yet quite ſo *unfaſhionable*, that great Metropolis would be *depopulated* in a few Years. And yet there is no Place, in which there is ſo great a Number of the Female Sex in the Proportion, as in *London*.

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Can it be credited, tho' perhaps it is too true, That in this City alone, there are upwards of Ten Thouſand *looſe* Women, from 16 Years old to 40, who have not *fifty* Children in a Year? And theſe *born* with all *ſorts* of Diſorders, and *educated*, if they live, in all *kinds* of *Vice* and *Wickedneſs*? In ſhort, it has been often remarked, That the greateſt Rakes, that all *Europe* can produce, when they arrive in *England*, and come to *London*, are quite *ſhocked* and *ſcandalized* at the *unparalleled* Lewdneſs and Debauchery reigning among *Us*, ſo far beyond any thing they could have imagined. Now if theſe 10,000 *looſe* Women had not been debauched and corrupted, and were married to Perſons of their own Rank and Condition, they might have had at leaſt 1000 *healthy* Children every Year; And theſe in a fair Way to be bred to *honeſt* Trades and Callings. Beſides, upon the preſent Footing, the *Injuſtice* done to the *married* Tradeſman, and Landed Gentleman is moſt grievous and intolerable. * For *they* pay the Exciſe and ſeveral other Duties in Proportion to the Conſumption of their Families; But the *Batchelor* pays only for his *ſingle* Self; i. e. Thoſe who are *moſt beneficial* to the Publick, are *doubly*, *trebly*, or *quadruply* Taxed, *in Proportion as they are beneficial:* And others, who are

* Cauſes of the Decline, &c. p. 8 and 9. and p. 51.

Exempted.

a *Nuſance* to it, are *therefore* exempted. Is there any Juſtice or Equity in this? I add, Men may underſtand theſe things as *Patriots* and *Politicians*, who would turn a deaf Ear to Lectures in *Morality* and *Divinity*. Nay more; ſuch *Abounding of Lewdneſs*, and *Surfeiting of Proſtitution* doth in fact tend to *encreaſe* the more *unnatural Vices*, inſtead of preventing them, as it is vulgarly, tho' erroneouſly ſuppoſed. And the Hiſtory of *all* Nations, from the former Times down to the preſent, confirms this Aſſertion. Antient *Greece* and *Rome*, and modern *England*, to mention no more, have furniſhed *too many* Examples in Proof of this Point. And Reaſon itſelf ſhould tell us, That it is with *this*, as with all other *depraved* Appetites, where *Surfeiting* and *Satiety* are Inducements to ſeek out *leſs natural* Ways of Gratification.

WHEREFORE the Propoſal here is, That all *Batchelors* after they have attained to the Age of 25 Years, ſhall pay *double* King's Tax,—Poor Tax,—Window Tax,—and the Taxes upon Coaches, till they marry. Thus the greateſt, i. e. the *wealthieſt* Offenders are properly mulcted. For undoubtedly *they* have it in their Power of ſettling in the World, if they will. They are the People, who ſet bad Examples, and by their Station, Riches, Intrigues, and Addreſs, debauch thoſe young

Women at firſt, who afterwards become the *common Proſtitutes* of the Town. But as this only reaches the *wealthieſt* of them; And as there are vaſt Numbers of ſingle Men, whom this Scheme would not affect, therefore there ſhould be added to it a *general Capitation* Tax for *all Batchelors*, of whatſoever Degree, above 25 Years of Age. And if this was fixed at 10 *s.* a Head per Ann. for all above the Condition of Day-Labourers, and at 5 *s.* for them (with an Exemption only for common Soldiers and Sailors) it would be a very juſt and equitable Law, and would certainly be attended with many good Conſequences, both as to the *Morals* and the *Commerce* of the Nation.

CONCLUSION.

CONCLUSION.

AND thus I have ventured to give my Sentiments, with that *Freedom* and *Unreſervedneſs*, which is natural to Men, who mean well, and whoſe ſole Aim is the Good and Proſperity of their Country. As I have no private Ends of my own to ſerve either the one way or the other, I have had no Biaſs of Self-Intereſt upon my Mind.——It is true, I confeſs, that *many* of the Propoſals here made, are Subjects very *unpopular* in the preſent Times: Neither would I willingly have advanced any thing *harſh* or *diſagreeable*, even to *prejudiced* Minds, *were it poſſible* to have made *Truth* and *Popularity*, in this Caſe, conſiſt together. But ſince that cannot be, what muſt be done? muſt we ſtill go on, languiſhing in our Commerce, encreaſing in our Diſorders, and beholding our Rivals taking their Advantage of theſe Misfortunes, merely becauſe ſome People do not chooſe

to be told *Where* the *Core* of the Evil lies, and how it may be taken out? If the Alterations here propoſed, are *neceſſary* or *advantageous* to the Publick, *that* alone ſhould be *ſufficient* to recommend them to the Eſteem of *all* Perſons of *Worth* and *Character*; But if they are not, I put in no Plea or Apology for them:——Only I will add, on behalf of the Author, that his *Intentions* were *good*, tho' He was miſtaken.

I AM alſo well aware, That there is a cuſtomary Prepoſſeſſion entertained againſt Projects of all kinds; And that Projectors are looked upon as a race of Beings who have ſomething very ſingular and whimſical in their Compoſition. And yet I think it muſt be allowed, That, notwithſtanding all the Prejudice which ſome chimerical Gentlemen of this Stamp have drawn upon themſelves, there muſt be both Projects and Projectors, when things are *bad*, and want *mending*; otherwiſe they never could be *better*, nor the Faults *corrected*.

WITH reſpect to the Caſe before Us, there are two general Objections, as far as I am able to perceive, which may be made againſt what has been advanced.

THE 1ſt is, That many of the Propoſals, tho' they may be right in Theory, are impracticable in fact. To

To this I reply, That no one can be certain of this, till an Attempt has been made to put them in Practice: And that I am very ſure, Every one of them might be eaſily put in Execution, were Perſons as really animated with the Love of their Country, and as truly concerned for it's Welfare and Proſperity, as they *pretend* to be; And had ſome among Us, in *their Oppoſition* to every Meaſure of the Government, no *dark latent* Scheme at Heart, which they *cover* over with theſe *Specious* Names.

The 2d is, That this Scheme is attended with Inconveniences, as well as others.

I grant it is: And ſurely no Man in his Senſes could ever ſuppoſe, That there could be any Scheme calculated for the *general* Good, which would not bear hard upon the Intereſts of ſome *Particular* People.—— The true way of eſtimating any Propoſal is, To conſider, Whether it doth remedy more *old* Inconveniences, than it introduces *new* ones;——And Whether, upon the *whole*, it is *beneficial*, or not,——and it's Benefits of ſuch *Importance* as deſerve to be regarded;—— laſtly, Whether likewiſe ſome of theſe very Inconveniences which are ſuppoſed to attend it, may not be *prevented* or *amended* by fur-

ther

ther Experience and Obſervation. This is the true way for eſtimating any Propoſal; And by this Rule I would chuſe, that my own ſhould be tried.——And then let them ſtand, or fall.

We are always complaining of the bad Morals of our People, of a general Corruption, and the Decay of Trade. Nevertheleſs it is very certain, That the preſent Syſtem of things greatly contributes to the Encreaſe of each of theſe Evils. My Meaning is, That it lays powerful Temptations in Peoples way.——And then, what can be expected? Some *few* perhaps will prove their Virtue to be ſuperior: But the *great Majority* will certainly be corrupted. For evident it is, That the *Innocence* of the Bulk of Mankind is beſt preſerved by their being kept *ignorant* of the Temptation, or at a great *Diſtance* from it. Now, what is the natural Tendency of *Cuſtomhouſe Oaths*, *Election Oaths*, *Freedom Oaths*, &c. &c. but to entice and encourage Mankind to be guilty of the foul Sin of *Wilful* and *Deliberate* Perjury? What are the *heavy* Taxes upon the *married* State, and *Exemptions* for *Batchelors* but the like Inducements to Men to remain *ſingle*, and to gratify their Deſires in an *unlawful* Way? What are all the *excluſive* Companies, all the *heavy* Duties upon Importation, and the Many Statutes for *cramping* the Trade of *Ireland*,

land, but ſo many continued Attempts to *drive away* the Trade from Ourſelves to the *French*, who are not only our *Rivals*, but our moſt *dangerous* Rivals? And truly we have greatly ſucceeded in all theſe: Yet who can we blame but Ourſelves? It may be pleaded indeed in Excuſe for theſe Laws and Eſtabliſhments, That they were not originally intended to produce thoſe bad Effects.. I allow they were not; nor are they charged with any ſuch Deſign. But the Queſtion here is, not what was the View of Makers of theſe Laws, or what was the End propoſed by ſuch Eſtabliſhments, but what is the *Tendency* of them, as verified by *Experience*, and how they do *operate* in fact? And if it is made to appear, That they are ſo deſtructive in their Conſequences, and ſubverſive of our *Morals*, *Liberties* and *Commerce*, it is but of little Conſolation to know, That they were eſtabliſhed with a better View; as we are now conſidering the Things themſelves, with their natural Conſequences, not the Characters or Deſign of their Authors and Projectors.

I WILL only add one Reflection more to what has been ſaid; viz. That if we would ſtill keep on our Trade at a *Foreign* Market, we muſt at leaſt be upon an *equal* Footing with *other* Nations, as to the *Goodneſs* and *Cheapneſs* of what we have to ſell; Otherwiſe we cannot

cannot expect, That Foreigners would give Us the Preference to their own Loſs. This then being the State of the Caſe, it neceſſarily follows, That we muſt always have an Eye upon the Practice and Proceedings of our *Rivals*, and take our Meaſures accordingly, as far as regards this mutual Emulation. If *they* contrive Ways and Means to render their *Manufactures* cheaper or better than they did before, ſo as to outvie Us; *we* muſt ſtrive to outvie them in Cheapneſs and Goodneſs, or be deprived of that part of Commerce by them: If *they* invite Foreigners to ſettle among them, in order to have the more Hands, and to keep down the Price of Labour; *we* muſt do the ſame, or take the Conſequence to Ourſelves; If *they* allow of no excluſive Companies in a Branch of Trade, which interferes with our Trade; *we* muſt put down our Companies, or looſe *that* Trade: If *their* Manufacturers are ſober and induſtrious, and work for low Wages, and ſeldom become a Burden upon their Pariſhes; *we* muſt endeavour to put *ours* upon the ſame Footing, or be content with the Poverty, which will be brought upon Us: If *their* Government requires little or no Duties upon Importation, in order to encourage the greater Numbers to engage in Trade, and that all Merchandiſe may come the cheaper to the Conſumer; *we* muſt imitate them in that reſpect,

ſpect, and change our Cuſtoms into In-land Duties, or adminiſter continual Temptation to the needy and fraudulent to turn Smugglers, and ſuffer ourſelves to ſink under theſe Evils, together with the Burden and Weight of our Cuſtoms. Theſe are the Alternatives which are ſet before Us; And one would think, That if Mankind were not greatly blinded with their Prejudices, and biaſſed by private Intereſt and ſiniſter Views, they need not be long in deliberating which to chooſe.—Not to mention, That as every Country in *Europe* now begins to underſtand the Maxims of Trade, and apply themſelves to Commerce, and are actually raiſing Woollen Manufactures of their own, and have laid new Duties upon Ours;——For theſe Reaſons, *We* ought to be more intent than ever to contrive all Ways and Means poſſible to lower the Price of every thing we export, in order to overballance theſe additional Duties by Dint of Cheapneſs of Labour, and to outvie theſe *new Rivals* by the Goodneſs of our Manufactures.

FINIS.

AN APPENDIX,

Containing a PLAN *for raiſing* ONE *only* TAX *on the Conſumers of Luxuries.*

THE foregoing Propoſals were endeavoured to be drawn up in ſuch a Manner as pointed out, how the deſired Alterations in our Syſtems of Commerce, and of collecting the Publick Revenue might be brought about as gradually as poſſible. And no greater Deviations were attempted to be made from the preſent State of theſe Affairs, than ſeemed abſolutely neceſſary; leaſt too precipitate a Shock might prejudice Mankind againſt Conviction. I did not therefore propoſe ſome of the above-mentioned Alterations

tions, as what appeared to me the very beſt, which could be deviſed; but the beſt in our preſent Circumſtances, and the likelieſt to ſucceed. For I am convinced, That what I am now going to offer, is in itſelf a much more effectual Remedy, if our Conſtitution is ſtrong enough to admit the Application of it.

THE Scheme is generally aſcribed to Sir *M. D.* as the Author of it; And is taken out of a Quarto Pamphlet, which would do Honour to any Man, ſeveral times already quoted; viz. *An Eſſay on the Cauſes and Decline of the Foreign Trade.*

BUT as I ſhall take the Liberty to make ſome few Alterations from, and Additions to what this moſt ingenious Author hath advanced, I ſhall put thoſe Articles in a different Character, that they may be diſtinguiſhed from his; And that his Original Plan may not be involved in any Cenſure, which perhaps is only due to my Additions and Alterations.——The Reaſons which induced me to believe that ſome few things might be altered, or added for the better, ſhall be laid before the Reader in the Sequel.

An Extract from Page 44, &c. of the *Eſſay on the Cauſes and Decline of the Foreign Trade.*

Firſt and Second Proposals.

TO lay one Tax on the Conſumers of Luxuries, and take off all our other Taxes, Exciſes, and Cuſtoms:——And when that is done, to make all our Ports free.

As the Money-Affair is always the grand Object, ſomething, by Way of Equivalent, muſt be given for the Taxes taken off: As ſuch the following Scheme is offered.

A Proposal for raiſing one only Tax on the Conſumers of Luxuries. It is hereby propoſed, That all Perſons uſing, wearing, or drinking the following Articles of Luxury, as particularly ſpecified, be obliged to take out a Licence Yearly, paying each one Subſidy for each Article of three Half-pence in the Pound only, on the computed Income they ſhould have to ſupport the Station of Life they voluntarily place themſelves in, by the Article of Luxury they uſe, wear, or drink, as by the Example following.

Arti-

Articles of LUXZURY.	Computed Income.	Tax at three Half-Pence in the Pound.		
All Perſons	*l.*	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*
1. Keeping two Coaches and Six for their Uſe ——	8000	50		
2. Uſing Diſhes or Plates of Silver at their Tables, commonly called Services of Plate ——	4000	25		
3. Keeping a Coach and Six for their Uſe ——	2000	12	10	
4. Keeping a Coach and Four for their Uſe ——	1000	6	5	
5. *Drinking French Wines in their Houſes or Lodgings* ——	1000	6	5	
6. Keeping a Coach and Two for their Uſe ——	800	5		
☞ Chariots, Four Wheel Chaiſes, &c. are included in the Term Coach.				
7. Wearing Jewels for their Dreſs (beſides Necklaces, Solitaires, Rings, or Ear-Rings) ——	800	5		
8. Keeping a Sedan Chair for their Uſe -	800	5		
9. Wearing Gold and Silver, Men on their Coats and Hats; and Women on their Gowns and Shoes ——	500	3	2	6
10. Uſing Silver Plate for their Side-Boards or Tables (not having Services)	250	1	11	3
11. Uſing China Services, *viz.* Diſhes and Plates at their Tables —	250	1	11	3
12. Wearing Necklaces or Solitaires of Jewels for their Dreſs (beſides Rings or Ear-Rings) ——	250	1	11	3
13. Keeping a Chair or Chaiſe with one Horſe for their Uſe —	250	1	11	3
14. *Keeping a Pack of Hounds* —	250	1	11	3
15. *Keeping a Man, or Men-Servants in Livery, or to wait at Table* —	250	1	11	3
16. *Keeping more Saddle Horſes than one* —	250	1	11	3

Articles of LUXZURY.	Computed Incomes.	Tax at three Half-pence in the Pound.		
All Perſons	*l.*	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*
17. Drinking *Port* Wine in their Houſe, Lodging, or Service. *I have inſerted the Word* Port *for Reaſons hereafter; And all other Wines, except* French, *are here included* ——	100		12	6
18. *Keeping Grey-hounds, Setters, Netts, Fowling Pieces, &c.* —	100		12	6
19. *Uſing China Plates for Deſerts only (having no Services of China)* —	100		12	6
20. Wearing Gold or Silver for their Dreſs (except on Coats, Gowns, Hats, or Shoes) ——	100		12	6
21. Wearing Jewels in Rings or Ear-Rings ——	100		12	6
22. *Going to Plays, Operas, Concerts, Balls, Maſquerades, Ridottos, Long Rooms, Publick Gardens* ——	100		12	6
23. *Going to Bear and Bull-baitings, Prize-fightings, Boxing-matches, Cock-fightings, and Horſe-races*	50		6	3
24. Uſing no Silver Plate but Spoons —	50		6	3
25. Drinking Brandy, Rum, or any Spirits in Houſe, Lodging, or Service —— ——	50		6	3
26. *Wearing Silk or Silk-Stuffs in Apparrel* —— —	50		6	3
27. *Having Pictures, Paintings, or Prints in Houſe, or Lodging* —	50		6	3
28. *Having more than one Looking-Glaſs in Ditto* ——	50		6	3
29. Drinking Tea, Coffee, or Chocolate, in Houſe, Lodging, or Service	25		3	3½
30. *Uſing China Tea-Diſhes, Cups, or Saucers* —— —	25		3	3½

THIS

This is the general Scheme of the Author: And I have ventured to make ſuch Additions to it, as, I hope, are conſiſtent with his good Deſign. I ſhall therefore make no Apology for each particular Alteration; And only obſerve with reſpect to the 5th and the 17th Articles, *i. e.* The Diſtinction between drinking *French* Wines, and *other* Wines (which are the principal Alterations) That they both ſeem to me to be highly neceſſary. The Author indeed makes no Difference throughout the Treatiſe between promoting the Conſumption of *French* Wine or *Port* Wine, as if it was the ſame to the Commerce of this Kingdom: But, tho' I acknowledge with Pleaſure the Inſtruction I have received in other Parts of the Science of Commerce, I cannot follow him in this; And muſt ſtill ſtick to the Maxims of all the former Writers on Trade, till I can ſee more Reaſon to alter my Opinion. If *French Clarets*, *Burgundy*, and *Champagne* were as cheap as *Port*, few Men would heſitate long which to chooſe. The *Britiſh Merchant*, I think, has ſatisfactorily proved, That were We to aboliſh all Duties on *French* Goods, and they to do the ſame on *Engliſh* (as was partly the Scheme of the Miniſtry during the four laſt Years of Q. *Ann*) The Conſequence would be, at leaſt, for a great many Years, That *England* would be over-run with *French* Silks, Laces, Wines, Brandies, Cloths,

Cloths, Stuffs, Ribbans, Fans, Toys, &c. And the *French* would take very little or nothing in Return, more than at preſent. The Experiment therefore which he propoſes, ſeems to me too hazardous; The bad Effects of it would be violent and inſtantaneous, and the good ones very ſlow and gradual; ſo that the Patient would be in Danger of expiring, as is often the Caſe, before the Medicine can operate.

Besides, were We to give ſuch Encouragement to the *French* Wines, as is here ſuppoſed, what would become of our *Portugal* Trade? which, as to the Ballance of it, is worth two Thirds of all the reſt. The Court of *Portugal* would lay an high Duty and perhaps a Prohibition upon all *Britiſh* Commodities, the Moment they found We did not give due Encouragement to theirs: Which indeed by Publick Treaty We are bound to do. And the *French* have always viewed this gainful Trade with a longing Eye; and would be glad to put in for it, if they found any Opening.

But to return; As to the Scheme in general, it is certainly very good. Perhaps the Valuation of the Income ſuppoſed neceſſary for ſome few of the principal Articles is ſet too high; being, I preſume, calculated for the Meridian of *London*, and the adjacent Coun-

Counties: Whereas the Calculation ſhould have been made more upon a Medium with the more diſtant Parts of the Kingdom, where things are much cheaper. But this is a Trifle; and might eaſily be rectified. It is ſufficient, that the Scheme is good in itſelf, and is ſtill capable of great Improvements.

The Author in the next Place gives a general Rule, 'That all Articles of the ſame 'Degree, or under the Article paid for, are 'included in it.' *i. e.* If I underſtand him rightly, The *greater* includes the *leſs*. For Inſtance, if a Perſon pays for a Coach and Six, he is thereby entitled to uſe a Coach and Four, a Chariot, a one Horſe-Chaiſe, or any other Vehicle he pleaſes. If he enters a whole Service of Plate, he may uſe Side-Boards, and all other Plate beſides. If He takes out a Licence for drinking *French* Wines, the ſame will ſerve for *Port*, *Spaniſh*, or any other, for Rum and Brandy; And ſo on.

I add alſo, what I conceive the Author has omitted, That the *higheſt* Article which any Man enters, gives the Lead to all the reſt; ſo that he is to pay for each of the ſucceeding the ſame which he pays for the firſt. If a Perſon enters a Coach and Six, and pays 12 *l.* 10 *s.* 0 *d.* according to the

Rates in the Table, he is to pay the ſame Sum for every other Article he enters. And there are the following weighty Reaſons for it: Firſt, That by ſo doing, this Scheme becomes the moſt excellent *ſumptuary* Law, that ever was deviſed: And Secondly, That it is juſt and reaſonable each Perſon ſhould pay in Proportion to what he Uſes of any Commodity: Now the moſt probable Grounds We can go upon (for the Affair will not admit of Certainty and Demonſtration) is, That Perſons in general live in Proportion to the Figure they make. A Perſon, who keeps a Coach and Six, is ſuppoſed to have more Wine drank in his Family than one who keeps only a ſingle Chariot, and to uſe a greater Quantity in Proportion of every other Article, which he enters; And therefore in all Reaſon and Juſtice, he ſhould pay the more.

THE next Article that he propoſes is, 'That Huſbands ſhould pay for their Wives 'the 1 4th of the Article they pay for 'themſelves, to entitle them to Uſe the 'ſame; And that the Parents ſhould pay for 'each Child under Age the 1 8th of the 'Article they pay for themſelves, to entitle 'them to uſe the ſame.' Here again I am ſorry I find myſelf obliged to differ from the worthy Author. If the Huſband is taxed for his Wife, and Parents for their Children in

in Proportion to their Numbers; this would be making too near Approaches to the Fault the Author had himſelf ſo juſtly condemned in our preſent Syſtem. Beſides, when a Man has a Family, he is neceſſarily obliged to enter more Articles than he would do, were he ſingle. And it would be a great and diſcouraging Hardſhip for the Heads of Families to pay theſe Articles, or any part of them, over again, on the Account of their Wives and Children. Moreover, I do not ſee how We could rightly diſtinguiſh which Articles belonged to the Huſband, which to the Wife, and which to the Children. It therefore ſeems to me a more equitable way, That the Huſband or Parent be reſponſible for the *whole* Family, and be conſidered, as if he entred *all* the Articles, for his *ſingle ſelf*. If the Family are extravagant, and will uſe more Articles of Luxury than his Circumſtances will afford, it is his Buſineſs to reſtrain them: And the preſent Plan makes it his immediate Intereſt, as well as Duty ſo to do.

THE Author then propoſes, 'That Batche-'lors ſhould be doubly taxed, if of 21 Years 'of Age.'—— This, with Submiſſion, is too ſoon. Suppoſe rather, That they paid a ſingle Tax for each Article, till they arrived at 25 Years; And then were *trebly* taxed, till they married; And that Widowers like-

wiſe without Children, if upwards of 30, and under 45, were *doubly* taxed.

The Author then recommends, That all Perſons Such as he there reckons up, who get their Living by the Luxuries and Extravagance of others, ſhould be obliged to pay for every Article they enter, as if they had an Income of 500*l.* a Year.—— But here I think there is not a ſufficient Diſtinction made between the different Claſſes of theſe People; ſeeing that, according to him, all muſt pay alike, from the meaneſt Ale-houſe to the greateſt Tavern; which ſurely is a very unequal way of Taxing, and not at all agreeable to his own juſt Maxims. Suppoſe therefore, inſtead of fixing upon any particular Sum, That each of theſe Perſons ſhould tax himſelf, by his way of Living, according as others do, but only much higher, viz. That all Keepers of Taverns, Coffee-houſes, Long-Rooms, Publick Gardens, Ale-houſes, &c. And that all Players, Shew-men, &c. ſhould be *trebly* taxed as long as they continue in ſuch Profeſſions; ——And that even this ſhould be *doubled* on all thoſe, who retail *French* Wines or Brandies.

But undoubtedly the way and manner of levying ſuch a Tax, is the Point which merits moſt the Attention of the Publick. And

on

on this Head, the worthy Author has given great Specimens of an uncommon Sagacity and Penetration. I ſhall not ſtay to repeat all his Rules and Directions, but refer thoſe who are diſpoſed, to the Treatiſe itſelf. But there is one Point, which particularly deſerves to be mentioned for it's Singularity and Contrivance, and as it is the Maſter Key to all the reſt: And that is, the Method which he has taken to make each Perſon immediately intereſted in detecting the Frauds and Impoſitions of his Neighbours. He obſerves in the firſt Place, That as the whole Scheme is a Tax upon *Vanity*, the very Nature of this Paſſion betrays itſelf, and will not be concealed: Conſequently there can be little Room for defrauding the Revenue in ſuch a Caſe. —— But ſuppoſe a few Frauds ſhould be attempted in ſome particular Circumſtances; Then the following Method, which he propoſes, is the moſt effectual Way of detecting them, viz. Let each Perſon for the firſt Year voluntarily tax himſelf according to the Station of Life He chooſes to appear in; And let him take out a Licence of the proper Officer in each Diſtrict, ſpecifying the ſeveral Articles he enters: Let a Pariſh Regiſter be kept of all the Money ſo raiſed in the Year within that Pariſh; And let the Tax ſo collected, be a Standard for laying on the Pariſh Rates of Church, Poor, Lamps, Scavengers, and all other Parochial

rochial or County Payments for the enſuing Year. The Conſequence will be, That thoſe who pay moſt, will naturally detect ſuch of their Neighbours as uſe any of the Articles above-mentioned without entering them; becauſe in ſo doing, they cauſe this latter Burden of Taxes to light the eaſier upon themſelves, and oblige their Neighbours to contribute their Quota with them. And as the Author propoſes, That the ſuſpected Perſon ſhould be charged with the *Onus Probandi*, or Juſtification of himſelf, this would ſtill facilitate the Scheme. And the Idea of an Informer would be very far from being conſidered in that contemptible and deteſtible Light it is at preſent, when the beſt, the greateſt, and thoſe who make the moſt ſplendid Figure in each Pariſh, would be of the Number.

THIS Tax is propoſed by the Author to be laid on the firſt Year without taking off any other, in order to have a Fund aforehand, and to pay our National Debt the faſter, and alſo to ſee what it would amount to. Then he propoſes, That all other Taxes ſhould be aboliſhed Year by Year, as this encreaſes, and is found adequate to ſupply their Places.

I WILL therefore ſingle out a Gentleman of 250 *l.* Income by the Year, with a Wife and

and four Children: And I will ſuppoſe that he enters every Article he well can; And compare that Tax with the preſent, in order to ſee what Advantages may be reaped by it.

A Gentleman of 250*l.* per Annum, living ſomewhat profuſely, enters,

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
1 A Service of China, which includes all other Articles of China —	1	11	3
2. A Side-Board of Plate; all other Plate (except Services) included —	1	11	3
3. Jewels, *viz.* Necklaces and Solitaires; Rings and Ear-Rings included —	1	11	3
4. A two wheeled Chaiſe —	1	11	3
5. A Pack of Hounds; Greyhounds, Guns, Nets, &c. included —	1	11	3
6. Men-Servants in Livery, or to wait at Table —	1	11	3
7. Saddle Horſes —	1	11	3
8. *Port*, and all Wines (except *French*) Rum, Brandy, and Spirits included —	1	11	3
9. Gold and Silver in Dreſs (except on Coats, Hats, Shoes, and Gowns) Silk, and Silk-Stuffs included —	1	11	3
Carried over	14	1	3

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	14	1	3
10. Going to Plays; all other Diverſions included —	1	11	3
11. Pictures, Prints, &c. —	1	11	3
12. Tea, Coffee, and Chocolate	1	11	3
13. Looking Glaſſes —	1	11	3
Total, which this Gentleman would pay for his Annual Licence ——	20	6	3
Deduct 3 *d.* in the Pound Expences in collecting —	00	5	1
Remains clear to the Government	20	1	2

WHEREAS a Gentleman of the ſame Income, let him be as frugal as he well can, pays at preſent for himſelf, his Wife, Children, and Family, in Duties, Cuſtoms, and Exciſes to the King, and Perquiſites to Officers of the Cuſtoms, with all their Train of *enhancing* Conſequences, at leaſt double the former; tho' the neat Produce, which comes clear to the Government is full one third leſs by the following Eſtimation.

1. THE

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
1. THE Gentleman is charged with the King's Duty, Cuſtoms and Exciſe, for all the Salt, Soap, Leather, Candles (and perhaps Coal) all the Malt and Hops (and perhaps Ale, Beer, Cyder and Perry) all the Wine, Brandy, Rum, and Spirits; the Sugar, Raiſins, Currants, Lemons, Oranges, Tobacco; the Tea, Coffee, and Chocolate, and other Articles uſed and conſumed by himſelf and Family: Which, if he is very ſaving, perhaps may amount to no more than about —	20	00	0
2. HE is charged with the *primary* kind of Advances on each of theſe Articles, *i. e.* The Advances which the Perſon who firſt pays the Duty, makes on the next Buyer, and He on the next, till it comes to the Conſumer, who muſt pay for ALL: Which at leaſt muſt amount to —	10	00	0
Carried over	30	00	0

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
Brought over	30	00	0
3. * He is charged with all *ſecondary* kind of Advances, *i. e.* The *reciprocal* Advances of the Price of Labour, Proviſions, and all Commodities, which Tradeſmen, Landlords, and all People concerned, make upon one another.—This muſt at leaſt amount to as much more	10	00	0
Total paid at preſent, even with good Oeconomy —	40	00	0

But

* The Nature of *primary* and *ſecondary* Advances may be beſt explained by an Illuſtration of both in the ſame Trade. Suppoſe A. by Trade a Shoemaker: He buys his Leather of the Tanner and Currier, and pays to them the King's Duty, with their Advances upon it: He charges this Duty, with the Addition of their Advances, and a *new* one of his own, upon the Shoes he ſells. This is the Nature of all *primary* Advances, be they multiplied ever ſo often. The Intereſt of the Money ſo paid and uſed in Trade, as Matters now ſtand, make it neceſſary, that they ſhould be.

But this is not all: For A. finds that B. C. D. E. F. G. &c. That is, The Butchers, Brewers, Bakers, Farmers, Cheeſe-Mongers, Chandlers, Grocers, Clothiers, Taylors, and in ſhort, all the Tradeſmen, whom he deals with, do likewiſe charge him with *their reſpective* Advances. Therefore, as he has no Reſource, but what his Occupation brings in, he charges his Shoes, as it were again, with a *ſecondary* Advance, in order to anſwer their Demands. Thus the Affair goes round, they charging him, and he them; till the Original Price of each one's Commodities is encreaſed to a *prodigious imaginary Value*. It is therefore no longer to be wondered at, That a Pair of Shoes, which doth not pay 4 *d.*

Duty

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
BUT tho' the Gentleman concerned pays 40 *l.* per Annum for the Duties and their Conſequences, yet the Original Duty to the King was no more than —	20	00	0
Deduct therefore 1 3d at leaſt for collecting —	6	13	4
Remains clear to the Government —	13	6	8

I HAVE here allowed 1 3d for collecting: And whoever conſiders the vaſt Expence, which the Government is at, eſpecially in the Salt and Cuſtoms, will be apt to conclude, That I have not allowed enough. As there is a Draw-back upon all Salt exported, and Salt for the Uſe of the Fiſheries; therefore it is neceſſary to have Salt Officers in all the Ports and Creeks of the Kingdom, to prevent Frauds and Impoſitions upon this Account. An amazing Expence, which this amounts to. And as to the Cuſtoms; there is not one Port in ten (except the Ports of *London*, *Briſtol*, *Liverpool*, *Southampton*, *Hull*,

Duty to the King, is yet enhanced a Shilling, or more in the Price, ſince the Duty laid upon Leather, and other the like Neceſſaries of Life.—Whereas no ſuch thing can happen according to the Nature of the Scheme here recommended; All Neceſſaries of Life, being Duty-free, and without Advances of any kind.

Newcaſtle, *Lynn*, *Leith*, and *Glaſgow*) which enter Merchandize enough to defray the Expences of their own Officers.—What a Difference is this, in Compariſon to the Scheme propoſed! In *that*, as it is propoſed, That each Perſon ſhall be obliged to come and enter, and pay the Money without any farther Expence, 3 *d.* in the Pound would be full ſufficient for the Salary of the Receiver and his Clerk: In *this*, 6 *s.* 8 *d.* will ſcarce ſatisfy for the collecting of 20 *s.* even by computing all upon an Average. So that tho' the Subject with all his Oeconomy, pays annually 40 *l.* The King receives but 1 3d of it, *viz.* 13 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* Whereas in the other Caſe, the Subject would pay but 20 *l.* 6 *s.* 3 *d.* tho' he appeared in a much gayer Scene of Life. And yet the Government would receive, clear of all Charges, 20 *l.* 1 *s.* 2 *d.* which is 1 3d, more. What then would it have been, had they both lived in the ſame Degree of Gaiety and Profuſeneſs!

Such a Scheme therefore as here propoſed, one would think ſhould recommend itſelf. For all Perſons in the Nation would find their Account in it in the long run, if they could have the Patience to look forward, and were not ſo contracted in their Views, as to be chained down to the *preſent* Advantage of private Intereſt.—— But what has been already mentioned is only *one* Good Conſequence,

quence, out of a Multitude of others which would attend it. For as it would render all things cheaper, it would neceſſarily encreaſe our Foreign Trade, enrich our Country, employ our Poor, encreaſe the Stock of Inhabitants, raiſe the *real* Value of all our Lands and Commodities, and depreſs the preſent *imaginary* and *factitious* one: As there would be no Duty upon Importation, it would invite more Perſons to engage in Trade; and prevent the very Poſſibility of Smuggling: As all Ports would be open, every Part of the Kingdom would have a fair and equal Chance; And the Sun-Shine of Commerce and Plenty would be diffuſed equally throughout: Above all, It would be attended with two excellent Conſequences, which deſerve to be more particularly noted, as we have little of the kind now exiſting. For *Firſt*, It would be a moſt excellent *ſumptuary* Law, to give a Check to the Luxury and Extravagance of the Age. The *higheſt* Article which a Man enters giving the Lead to all the reſt, would make it his immediate Intereſt, to go as Low as poſſible: So that He would find himſelf under a continual Monitor to forego his Pleaſures, till he could better afford to pay for them. His *aſpiring* Vanity would be cheked by the Conſideration, That he is to pay the more for every other ſucceeding Article in Conſequence of the firſt. *Secondly*, It would be a Tax, which

which no Man could complain of, as it would be his own voluntary Act and Deed to rate himſelf in this or that Claſs, and to appear either in an higher or a lower Station of Life.

But alas! after all what can We expect from ſuch a World as this?——The Scheme before Us is of too *enlarged* and *noble* a Nature to be rightly comprehended and truly reliſhed by *narrow* and *contracted* Minds. It claſhes with the *preſent* Intereſt of too many Perſons, to be likely to ſucceed. And I am afraid, I may apply to this Author, the Words I heard in a Caſe not very different from it: *Sir, This is all right; But it will never do:*——It is *too honeſt.*

However, there is a Satisfaction in offering things *right* and *honeſt* to Publick Conſideration, whether they are accepted, or not. It is a laudable Paſſion to be willing to do the moſt *extenſive* Good. And there are not many Men, tho' many may be honeſt and upright in their private Capacity, who think themſelves concerned to be active and indefatigable in promoting the Welfare of the Community. The Caſe with the Selfiſh and Deſigning is quite the reverſe: They are ever vigilant and induſtrious in defeating every Meaſure, which is not calculated for their own *private* Advantage, to the Detriment of others. Their Craft is endangered by ſuch a Syſtem:

a Syſtem: And therefore they always cry it down, and are zealous in oppoſing it.

THUS it is, That in moſt Conteſts, where the Publick Good is concerned, a few knaviſh and diſhoneſt Perſons are an Over-match by their Zeal and Activity for greater Numbers, who are more negligent and indifferent. Every generous and diſintereſted Propoſal naturally alarms all thoſe, who prey upon the Publick. —— But let the Event be what it will, an honeſt Man who doth his Duty, enjoys that Satisfaction, which they are Strangers to.

FINIS.

F I N I S.